

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Subject of Following Letters: Reports by Health Officers of Long Beach and Los Angeles on Medical Service in the Recent Southern California Earthquake.

Department of Health  
City of Long Beach

*To the Editor:*—Your favor of the 17th inst. just came to my attention, and this being Sunday I have no stenographer at work and will have to answer in longhand.

The State Board of Health and their representatives have and are still rendering invaluable service to us in the stricken area. They are functioning 100 per cent, and we are hoping the State Board will let them remain as long as there is any necessity for their services.

I can find no words to express our appreciation of the valuable service the State Health Board representatives are rendering.

G. E. McDONALD, M. D.,  
Health Officer, City of Long Beach.

Department of Health  
City of Los Angeles

*To the Editor:*—Answering your inquiry of March 17, I am happy to state that Dr. Giles S. Porter, the State Health Officer, his assistant, Dr. Telfer, Mr. Ross, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Gillespie, and Mr. Harmon, all of the State Health Department, gave valued assistance and advice in handling the emergency conditions in the devastated area. Mr. Ross continued in active direction of sanitary inspection from the time he reported on Saturday, March 11. My own and other health departments who contributed sanitary personnel placed them under control of Mr. Ross.

The Emergency Committee that was appointed designated Mr. C. S. Henderson as director of relief in the devastated area. Mr. Henderson appointed me as director or coördinator of emergency medical relief. He appointed Doctor Porter, coördinator of public health. This latter appointment perhaps was superfluous, as it was well within the legal powers of state health officer. Colonel O. C. Wyman, a quartermaster officer of this city, was made director or coördinator of food supplies. These several responsibilities delegated by Mr. Henderson enabled us to work in complete coöperation and, I believe, contributed much to the orderly program of relief that was carried on through the week's emergency. I cannot speak too highly of all those who contributed so generously to my division of medical relief. More than two hundred doctors reported, coming from as far as Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, and San Diego. We had on duty daily a little less than one hundred physicians at the fourteen relief stations and the two hospitals in Long Beach City. Although more than six hundred nurses volunteered, approximately two hundred were on duty daily. I am proud of the way the medical and nursing professions came to the aid of the people in the stricken area.

C. W. DECKER,  
Health Officer, City of Los Angeles.

### Subject of the Following Letter: Misrepresentation by an Insurance Solicitor.

*To the Editor:*—A man representing himself as J. F. Anderson, but whose true name we have since learned is Fred Hernbloom, and who has another alias, J. F. Palmer, procured some of our literature and specializes in calling on doctors.

It has been reported to us that he has procured considerable money from doctors and dentists on applications for life insurance. No applications for life insurance are received by us, and the only way we have learned of his practice is through complaints being made to our home office or to my office. He is operating in Southern California.

I went to Los Angeles and spent considerable time there trying to find him. I reported the facts to the Life Underwriters' Association in Los Angeles, to the Better Business Bureau, who made notations and stated they would communicate the facts to their membership, and also to the Los Angeles Police Department through Mr. T. J. Ryan of the Bunko Detail, who will be on the lookout for this man. I contacted the Medical Association in Los Angeles, and they are publishing a warning in their bulletin.

It was suggested by doctors in Los Angeles that you publish a warning through your publication here in San Francisco, warning all doctors and dentists to be on the lookout for this man and under no circumstances to pay any money to anyone without his showing to them that he is authorized by the State of California to write life insurance; in other words, to practice the business of a life insurance underwriter.

This man has no license to represent any life insurance company in California. He never has had a license or contract to represent the Guarantee Mutual in California.

G. G. RIPLEY,  
1114 Russ Building.  
San Francisco.

### Subject of Following Letter: The Majority and Minority Reports on the "Final Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care."

*To the Editor:*—The University of Chicago Press has recently published the report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, under the title of "Medical Care for the American People." The price is \$2. In many medical journals, I have noticed comments on the committee's report, but with little reference to the minority report. In the volume referred to, the minority report is given in full and is so wise and so reasonable that anyone interested in the subject should read it. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* in its December number printed excerpts. The minority report gives the most conclusive refutation I have seen of the assumed facts and of the fallacies of the majority report. It should appeal to all except professional socialists. Indeed, the basis of the majority report seems to be the spirit of socialism rampant in our universities. The adoption of the recommendations of the majority report by the profession would be an entering wedge to state socialism. I wish to emphasize the advisability of a perusal of this volume by all California Medical Association members who are interested in these matters.

JOHN C. KING.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above letter is from Dr. John C. King, formerly in practice in Banning, now retired and living at Pasadena. Doctor King was president of the California Medical Association in 1910-1911. Summaries of the reports above referred to were printed in the December, 1932, *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, pages 395-400. County societies and interested members were urged to purchase the Final Report, the following footnote being appended:

Publication 28: "The Final Report of the Committee on Costs of Medical Care" may be purchased from the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. Price, \$1.50.

## MUSSEL AND CLAM POISONING IN CALIFORNIA

In 1930 there was but one case of mussel poisoning reported in California and in 1931 but two cases. In 1932 forty-two cases of the disease were reported. This is distinctly at variance with the preceding year 1929, when fifty-five cases occurred. In 1927, an outbreak of more than one hundred cases, with several deaths, constituted almost a catastrophe. Each year, in fact, since 1927 the California Board of Public Health has established a quarantine on mussels during the summer months, when these shellfish are toxic. Recently a similar quarantine has been placed upon clams because of the toxic condition that has been discovered in them. Through the coöperation of Dr. K. F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation for